

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 2, 2021

The Honorable Michael S. Regan
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Regan:

I am writing to seek your assistance with identifying EPA funding opportunities the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina might be able to utilize to help cover the cost of repairing the dam at their Tribal Cultural Center in Maxton, North Carolina.

As you know, Hurricanes Matthew and Florence devastated infrastructure in Southeastern North Carolina, including the Lumbee dam. After Matthew, the tribe commenced a project to repair the dam using FEMA public assistance grant funds. Florence caused additional damage and required major revisions to the project, as the State of North Carolina reclassified the dam as "high hazard." That designation sparked a lengthy regulatory review process, which dragged out construction. It also greatly complicated FEMA reimbursement, which is still being negotiated to this day. I have been told the tribe has obligated roughly \$5 million to repair the dam, but FEMA has so far only reimbursed the tribe for \$1 million.

The Lumbee do not possess an abundance of financial means, and the situation has placed a significant strain on the tribe. I am committed to helping the tribe identify all avenues by which they could secure the funds necessary to cover the costs of this critical public safety work. If you could let me know if there are EPA funding opportunities the tribe might be able to utilize for this purpose, I would be most grateful.

Thank you for your friendship, and your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Richard Burr
U.S. Senator